

INFORMATION

Civilian Medical Care for Army Personnel

Generally, medical care and treatment, including hospitalization, are provided for Army personnel in the United States by dispensaries, infirmaries, and hospitals located at the many Army installations throughout the country. There are many locations, however, where Army or other United States federal medical treatment facilities are not available when medical service is required by Army personnel. In cases of this nature, the services of civilian physicians, clinics, and hospitals are necessary. With the expansion of the Army and the development of Army personnel to practically all points in the United States either on a duty, travel, or leave status, the continued cooperation of civilian physicians and agencies is of utmost importance in providing adequate medical service to the United States soldier in time of need.

Certain criteria and procedures have been established in connection with the furnishing of medical service to Army personnel by civilians in accord with the current laws and regulations. These criteria define the conditions under which individuals of the Army may be authorized civilian medical care at the expense of the Army. These procedures include methods for reporting and receiving payment for treatment or hospitalization of Army personnel by civilian medical agencies.

Civilian medical care (other than elective) at the expense of the Army is authorized for commissioned officers, contract surgeons when employed by the Army on a full-time basis, warrant officers, enlisted personnel, cadets of the United States Military Academy, general prisoners and prisoners of war when these personnel are on a duty status or when they are absent from their place of duty on leave or informal leave (pass) status. Applicants for enlistment in the Army and selectees also are authorized necessary civilian medical care at the expense of Army funds while they are being processed for enlistment or induction into the Army. Payment for civilian medical expenses incurred by Army personnel who are absent without leave is not authorized. Any obligations resulting from civilian medical care to Army personnel who are absent without leave are the responsibility of the Army individual concerned.

Normally, civilian medical care for Army personnel is authorized only when there are no other federal medical treatment facilities available. First aid or emergency treatment is authorized at any time, notwithstanding the proximity of Army or other federal medical treatment facilities. In this connection, emergency medical care may be defined as that required to save life or limb or prevent great suffering. Surgical operations should not be performed without prior approval of military authorities, unless indicated as an emergency procedure. Elective

medical treatment in civilian medical treatment facilities or by civilian physicians will not be authorized, as Army funds cannot be used for payment of these services.

Due to limitation of funds available to the Army, medical care of dependents of military personnel from civilian sources, at Army expense, is not authorized. Dependents of military personnel may obtain available medical care at Department of Defense medical facilities only. Any obligations resulting from civilian medical care to dependents of military personnel are the responsibility of the dependents concerned or their sponsors.

As a general rule, the local military commander will furnish the civilian medical agency with prior written authority for ordinary medical care to Army personnel under his jurisdiction. In such cases, prior arrangements with the civilian medical agency will be made by the individual or by a proper military authority. In cases in which treatment is given in emergency without prior written authorization, the surgeon of the nearest military command should immediately be notified by the civilian medical agency, giving the individual's name, organization, nature of illness or injury and statement of the practicability of transfer of the patient to an Army or other governmental hospital. The civilian agency or physician then will be advised without delay by the appropriate military authorities as to procedures to be followed.

Bills for authorized medical care and treatment of Army personnel should be submitted to the commanding officer of the organization to which the patient belongs, or to the military authority who provided the authorization for the medical service. If the location of these individuals is not readily known, the bill should be sent to the appropriate military authority, in California to the Surgeon, Sixth Army, Presidio of San Francisco, California.

The bill should show the full name, rank, and service number of the patient, the place and inclusive dates of treatment, the diagnosis, and the charges, all itemized separately. The duty status of the patient at the time of illness or injury also should be shown, such as duty, leave, or pass. Payment will be expedited if the following certificate is typed on the bill and signed:

"I certify that the above charges are correct and just; that payment therefor has not been received; that the services were necessary in the care and treatment of the person named above; that the services were rendered as stated; and that the charges do not exceed those customarily charged in this vicinity."

Signature of Payee

Title or Capacity